ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The key to enabling cellular instant messaging is to identify that the cellular customer has turned their phone on or has turned their phone off in order to add/delete their name from the instant message buddy/friend list. To accomplish this without readily accessible network triggers or prior to deploying cellular packet data service is a challenge. To meet this challenge the present invention utilizes telemetry messages that indicate when a cellular phone is available on a cellular network. Thereafter, relevant cellular phones on a buddy list stored in an instant messaging database are notified of a cellular phone's availability.

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